

In The Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal,
the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats or udder of the animal, the
composition consisting essentially of:

from about 60% to about 95% of a lipophilic polar solvent selected from

the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and
isopropanol, by weight of composition;

at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount from about 0.5% to 5% by weight of
the composition; and

a secondary solvent selected from the group consisting of:

water, alcohol, and mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the fatty acids form a fatty acid
mixture which comprises about 55% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₈ fatty acid and
about 40% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₁₀ fatty acid.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is propylene glycol.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the
amount from about 50% to about 75% by weight of composition.
8. (Canceled)

Applicant: Dee et al.
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9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein one of the fatty acids is caprylic acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein one of the fatty acids is capric acid.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[11]]~~4, wherein the antimicrobial composition has a pH below about 4.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)